

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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8. DATE OF INFORMATION: 11 August 1964	9. ORIGINATOR: C&I Bn, 513th INTC Group	10. PREPARED BY: <i>Joseph Jung</i>	11. APPROVING AUTHORITY: ERNEST V. ZURETTI Major, AIS Operations Officer
12. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Stuttgart, Germany 22 December 1964	13. EVALUATION: SOURCE F INFORMATION 6	14. SOURCE: FINZE, Ferdinand (DOB: 2 August 1912)	

15. SUMMARY (Leave Blank)

(C) This report contains information on the state court prison in PRAHA-PANKRAG (VR 596461) (5004N-1427E) CSSR, to include the location and description, administration, the number and type of prisoners, clothing, food and medical care given the prisoners, the types of work that the prisoners are engaged in, recreation and privileges, security, prison personnel and some political prisoners who Source knew while confined in this prison.

REPORT

1. (C) Location, Description and History

The state court prison, PRAHA-PANKRAG, is located at coordinates VR 596461 in PRAHA (Sheet 3953/JW, PRAHA WEST, Scale 1:25,000, AMS Series M 872, Second Edition). This prison was built in the late nineteen thirties. Source knew of no construction at the prison since WWII. A layout sketch of the prison could not be provided as Source was not familiar with the entire complex of the prison.

- 1-DIA (DIAAQ-3)
- 3-USAREUR, DCSI
- 1-USARMA, CSSR

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2. (C) Administration

This prison is directly subordinate to the Czech Ministry of Interior. The internal administration of the prison is handled by the STP (state secret police). The strength of the police personnel at the prison was not known to Source.

3. (C) Prisoners

a. Number and Types of Prisoners: When Source began serving his sentence at subject prison on 20 Jul 63, it was occupied by 2,500 convicts. When Source was released on 11 Aug 64, the number of prisoners had increased to 3,000 convicts. No pre-trial prisoners were held at this prison. Fifty percent of the prisoners were political prisoners while the remainder had been sentenced for such criminal offenses as rape, indecent assault, theft, burglary, bodily injury and manslaughter. Prisoners convicted for criminal offenses were sentenced to between five and 25 years imprisonment. With very few exceptions, sentences imposed on political prisoners ranged from ten years to life terms. Only about one percent of the prisoners were female. Relations between the political and criminal prisoners were poor.

b. Billeting of Prisoners: Convicts are billeted in a cross-shaped, brick building which has a normal capacity for 2,000 prisoners. The majority of prisoners are billeted in the so-called dormitory cells which hold 45 to 70 prisoners each. About 50 single cells located in the basement of the prison are used for solitary confinement. Political and criminal offenders were not separated while Source was there. In the Spring of 1964 and until Source left the prison, the cells were all overcrowded by about thirty percent.

4. (C) Clothing and Food

All convicts wear cast-off Czech/Army uniforms with red stripes running down the sides of both arms and both legs. Food issued to prisoners working outside of the prison was sufficient, since they always received an additional hot meal each day at their place of work. The food for prisoners who had positions or duties within the prison was insufficient and of extremely poor quality. As long as Source was imprisoned at this prison he and the other prisoners never received any fresh vegetables or fruits and only on a very few occasions did they ever receive fat or meat and then only in very small quantities.

5. (Q) Medical Care

The prison has its own small hospital which has approx 50 beds. The hospital is also operated by the state secret police. Three physicians and one dentist are permanently on duty there.

6. (C) Prisoner's Work

a. Type of Work: Approximately 80 percent of the convicts work outside of the prison on the construction of new settlements in the vicinity of PRAHA. They work three shifts daily, eight hours a shift. Source was working in the so-called foreigner's section of the prison. This section was composed of 46 political prisoners who worked mostly on translations. The translation section made translations of books, newspapers and also of technical and scientific periodicals (English, French, Czech, Russian, Polish and German). Information on the conditions under which those who worked outside of the prison labored could not be given by Source.

b. Prisoner's Pay: Theoretically, prisoners working inside the prison area are paid 800 Krona a month, but normally they only receive about 10 percent of this sum. The remainder was kept by the prison administration for some unknown reason. The payment received by prisoners working on outside jobs was unknown to Source.

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8. (C) Recreational Facilities

(Leave Blank)

Prisoners were entitled to borrow two books a month from the prison library. No newspapers were available at the library. Every two weeks a movie was shown and it was generally of Czech origin and had an anti-Western theme.

9. (C) Political Indoctrination

Source could not remember anything of this nature taking place in the prison, at least not for the political prisoners.

10. (C) Privileges

Prisoners are entitled to receive and mail one letter a month. Source never received any packages. Visits of very close relatives were allowed once every four months and would last for about thirty minutes.

11. (C) Security

The prison area is entirely surrounded by a concrete wall, four meters high, that is topped with broken glass. Inside the prison area is a barbed wire fence, three meters high and topped with four strands of barbed wire that bend inward. There is four meter wide space between the concrete wall and the barbed wire fence and it is called the "zone of fire", which means that prisoners found within this area are immediately fired upon without a warning shot. During the hours of darkness, the entire prison area is highly illuminated by floodlights that are installed side by side on the inside of the concrete exterior wall and by additional floodlights dispersed at strategic locations within the prison area. The total number of guards assigned to the prison was unknown to Source.

12. (C) Personalities

a. Prison Personnel: The only prison personnel known to Source by name were the prison liaison officer and one chief warden of the foreigner section at the prison, see figures No. 1 and No. 2.

b. Prisoners

210/1115 - Address all below

Imprisoned in State Court Prison.

Neuburgerstrasse 41 05 Aug 64

(1) KLEIN, Karl, 69 years old. A former German Army major from East Prussia. He was sentenced in 1947 to 25 years imprisonment as a war criminal.

no 201 (2) RICHTER, Walter, 55 years old. A former SS officer from OBERMIZ. He was condemned to death in 1946, but in 1953 this sentence was changed to twenty-five years imprisonment.

7-24 (3) GATZKE, Karl-Heinz, 36 years old, German national. He was arrested in 1952 near EISENSTEIN (UQ 7045) (4909N-1313E) and sentenced to eighteen years in prison for espionage for the USA.

no 201 (4) KUMIECKI, Dieter, 25 years old, resided in DUESSELDORF, GFR, Scheurenstrasse 59. He was arrested in 1961 in PRAHA and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for espionage.

7-24 (5) SCHAFFERT, Helmut, 26 years old, from DUESSELDORF, GFR, Querstrasse 14. He worked for a West German firm in PRAHA. He was arrested in 1961 in PRAHA and sentenced to 12 years in prison for espionage for the USA.

7-24 (6) RINA, Hans, 35 years old, from PASSAU, GFR, Neuburgerstrasse 41. He was arrested in 1963 in PRACHATICE (VQ 2629) (4901N-1359E) and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for espionage for the USA.

7-24 (7) FOHL, Gustav, 60 years old, last residence in HEIDENHEIM, BRENZ, GFR. He was arrested in CHEB (UR 1150) (5004N-1221E) and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for espionage for the USA.

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(8) ~~SEAMAL~~, Waldemar, 36 years old, chemist, residing in WEST-BERLIN. He was arrested in 1954 in EAST-BERLIN by Czech authorities and transferred to PRAHA. In PRAHA he was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for espionage for the USA. ~~He was later released and returned to the USA.~~ (Leave Blank) 172-1

(9) ~~VRATNY~~, Franz, 60 years old, Czech, former employee of the Czech consulate in HAMBURG, GFR. He was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for espionage in 1961. ~~He was later released and returned to the USA.~~ (Leave Blank)

COMMENTS

1. (C) Source

~~FINZE~~, Ferdinand, was born 2 Aug 12 in INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA. He is male ethnic German who was expelled by the Czech authorities to the GFR via SCHIRNDING on 15 Aug 64. He completed eight years of elementary school and was a clerk by profession. From Feb 45 to Feb 46 he was a POW in the USSR. From Feb 46 to July 49 he lived in BAD AUSSEE, AUSTRIA, and allegedly worked as an agent for a "CIC" unit. According to his own statements, Source claims that during this time and in agreement with the Americans he also worked for the Russians as an agent. On a "mission" in Aug 49 in BRNO, CSSR, he was arrested by the Czech state police and transferred by them to PRAHA-PANKRAG where he was tried and condemned to death in Dec 49 for espionage for the USA. From Dec 49 to Aug 51 he was an inmate of the state prison in PLZEN-BORY, CSSR. From Sep 51 to Feb 53 he worked as a prisoner in the uranium mines in PRABRAM, CSSR. From Feb 53 to Summer 53 he was an inmate of the prison hospital at PRAHA-PANKRAG. At that time, his death sentence was changed to 15 years imprisonment. From Summer 53 to Aug 60 he was an inmate of the state prison in LEOPOLDOV, CSSR. From Aug 60 to 19 Jul 63 he was an inmate of the state prison in ILAVA, CSSR. From 20 Jul 63 until his release on 11 Aug 64 he was an inmate of the state court prison in PRAHA-PANKRAG. All information contained in the above report is based on his personal observations while a prisoner at this prison. Source is of average intelligence and seemed sincere. His cooperation during the interrogation was excellent. He was not previously interrogated by an Allied Agency.

2. (U) Remarks

This interrogation was performed by Josef Jung.

COMMENTS OF APPROVING OFFICER:

THIS IS RAW/UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

To avoid false confirmation, it is requested that agencies reprinting a part or the whole of this report, include the C&I Bn NUMBER OF THIS REPORT, the DATE OF THIS REPORT, AND MENTION OF THE SOURCE IN THE EXACT TERMS AS GIVEN IN THIS REPORT. Doing so will also make it possible for C&I Bn to answer inquiries based on material reprinted by other agencies from C&I Bn reports.

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PERSONALITY (U)

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FULL NAME: REJHOLEC, (fnu) ALIAS: None
 MILITARY RANK: Sergeant (Wachtmeister) BRANCH OF SERVICE: unknown
 PRESENT POSITION: Chief Warden of Foreigner's DOB: circa 1936
 Section at the PRAHA-PANKRAC
 State Court Prison in the
 CSSR
 POB: Unknown; probably CSSR NATIONALITY: Czech
 MARITAL STATUS: married CHILDREN: unknown
 EDUCATION: unknown RELIGION: none
 POLITICS: Not a party member and not believed
 to be in favor of the communist regime in the CSSR LANGUAGES: Czech
 PAST CAREER: unknown
 CHARACTER: Ht: 170 cm Wt: 15 kg Build: slender Eyes: blue Hair: blond
 BASIS OF INFORMATION: Personal observations made by a former political
 prisoner, FINZE, Ferdinand, DOB: 2 Aug 1912; POB: Innsbruck,
 Austria.
 DATE OF INFORMATION: 1 December 1964

Fig 1

PERSONALITY (U)

FULL NAME: RISAVI, Frantisek ALIAS: none
 PRESENT TITLE: Colonel BRANCH OF SERVICE: unknown
 PRESENT POSITION: Liaison Officer at the PRAHA-PANKRAC DOB: circa 1914
 State Court Prison in the CSSR
 POB: HOSTIVAR, CSSR NATIONALITY: Czech
 MARITAL STATUS: married CHILDREN: two
 EDUCATION: unknown RELIGION: unknown
 POLITICS: unknown; a communist party member LANGUAGES: Czech and German
 PAST CAREER: unknown
 CHARACTER: Ht: 175 cm Wt: 80 kg Build: strong Eyes: Blue Hair: dark
 BASIS OF INFORMATION: Personal observations made by a former political
 prisoner, FINZE, Ferdinand, DOB: 2 Aug 1912; POB:
 Innsbruck, Austria.
 DATE OF INFORMATION: 1 December 1964

Fig 2

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